

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). There is a scope to increase area under oilseeds specially under Soyabean, Sunflower, Rapeseed and Mustard through sequential cropping, inter-cropping, replacement of low economy crops and as substitute crop in problematic areas/situations. The area expansion possibilities exist in the State of Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and North Eastern States of the country during Ninth Five Year Plan. However, no area targets have been fixed as yet.

(c) The production target of Oilseeds for the Ninth Five Year Plan, has not yet been fixed by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission has so far fixed targets of 26 million tonnes for oilseeds production upto the year 2000 AD.

[Translation]

Closure of Hot Mix Plants

*75. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court has given orders for the closure of some hot mix plants in Delhi or has given instructions to the Central Pollution Control Board to examine the air pollution caused by these plants.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of hot mix plants of Delhi examined so far by the Central Pollution Control Board and the findings thereof; and

(d) the action taken so far or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated October 10, 1996 has directed 43 hot mix plants to re-locate/ shift to any other industrial estate in the National Capital Region (NCR). The Court has further directed that these hot mix plants shall close down and stop functioning and operating in the city of Delhi with effect from February 28, 1997.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, has submitted a report in respect of 43 hot mix plants. According to the Report, the process emissions from

hot mix plants contain particulate matter and sulphur dioxide besides poly aromatic hydrocarbons, most of which are proven carcinogens. Therefore, as Expert Committee of the CPCB has categorized hot mix plants as hazardous industry.

Many of the hot mix plants belonging to Government as well as the private sector are located near residential areas and, therefore, such installations may pose severe health risk to the inhabitants nearby (Lal Kuan, Rangpuri, Mehrauli, Khyalla). The maintenance of most of the hot mix plants is poor.

The Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi has constituted a "Unified Single Agency" to facilitate shifting/relocations of the hot mix plants. The Agency includes the Chief Secretaries of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi and the Member Secretary of the National Capital Region Planning Board. A "Single Window Service" has also been functioning with the Commissioner of Industries, Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi as Chairman for the benefit of the industries falling under 'B' category and which have been ordered to shift out of Delhi by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

[English]

Project Tiger

*76. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the fund sanctioned and released to different Tiger Reserves during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the amount of foreign assistance received for the Project Tiger-during each of the last three years;

(c) the increase or decrease in population of tigers and other big-cats so far during the plan period; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for the proper preservation and development of Tigers and other wild life in those Reserves during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). Two statements-Statement-I showing the funds released under the "Project Tiger scheme" to various Tiger Reserves during Eighth Five Year Plan and Statement-II giving the specific steps taken by Government for the preservation of tigers in the country, are enclosed.

(b) Two externally aided projects - Forestry Research Education and Extension Project (FREEP) and India Eco-development Project were initiated in 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively. During 1994-95 and 1995-96, an